reported. Government of Andhra Pradesh, who have been approached, has not indicated any alternative site for the range.

Pak attacks in Uri and Karnah Sectors

1381. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Pakistani Army is stepping up attacks along the 60 km Line of Control between Uri and Karnah sectors in Kashmir Valley, in a determined attempt to create another Kargil like situation on the border; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Pakistani troops attacked our posts on two occasions between Uri and Karnah along the Line of Control. These attacks were attempted on 22nd October, 1999 and 9th November, 1999. Both of them were repulsed, resulting in Pakistan suffering 17 fatal casualties. Our troops suffered three killed and nine wounded.

A constant vigil is maintained on the border by our troops who are trained, equipped and motivated to give an appropriate response to any misadventure of this kind.

Export of weapons

1382. SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to export India made weapons;

(b) if so, whether Government have identified the factories where these weapons can be manufactured; and

(c) whether Government have also identified the countries to which these weapons would be exported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) to (c) Ordnance Factories and Defence Public Sector Undertakings have been exporting their products for several years. Products, factories where these would be manufactured, and the target markets have been identified.

Promotion age of Army Hawaldars

1383. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that promotion age in Defence services has been fixed at 42 years in case of Hawaldar's cadre;

(b) whether it is also a fact that with the increase in retirement age, the promotion age has not been consequently increased and is having a demoralising impact;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to increase the promotion age in the larger interest of defence personnel particularly the hawaldar cadre;

(d) if so, the details in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (e) Consequent upon enhancement in ages of retirement, maximum age for promotion from Havaldar to Naib Subedar has been increased from 42 to 44 years for all categories except Clerks General Duty, Clerks General Duty (Staff Duty) and Storekeeper (Storeman Technical), ammunition (technicians) examiners, personal assistants (Army Service Corps) and instructors in Army Education Corps in whose case it has been increased from 44 to 46 years. Therefore, the question of any demoralising effect does not arise.